CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1658
9 January 2002

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, MR. VLADIMIR PUTIN, ON 13 DECEMBER 2001 IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ABM TREATY OF 1972*

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement made by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, on 13 December 2001 in connection with the decision by the Administration of the United States of America to withdraw from the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty).

I should be grateful if the statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed) Leonid A. SKOTNIKOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

* Reproduced from previously issued document A/56/707 of 14 December 2001 as attached.

Annex

Statement by Russian Federation President V.V. Putin, of 13 December 2001

The Administration of the United States of America declared today that it would withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in six months.

The Treaty indeed grants each of the parties the right to withdraw from it if there are exceptional circumstances. The United States leaders have repeatedly spoken about this, and such a step was not unexpected on our part. Nevertheless, we consider that this decision is mistaken.

As is well known, the Russian Federation, like the United States of America, as distinct from the other nuclear Powers, has for a long time possessed an effective system for overcoming anti-missile defence. Therefore, I can state with complete confidence that the decision taken by the United States President does not create a threat to the national security of the Russian Federation.

At the same time, our country did not accept joint withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which the United States persistently proposed, and did everything that it could in order to maintain the Treaty. Today, I continue to believe that such a position is correct and well-founded. In this regard, the Russian Federation was guided first and foremost by a concern to maintain and strengthen the international legal basis in the field of disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty is indeed one of the pillars of the legal system in this field. This system was created through joint efforts over the course of recent decades.

In our view, the development of the situation in the contemporary world urgently dictates a certain logic of action.

Today, when the world is being confronted with new threats, a legal vacuum in the field of strategic stability must not be permitted, and the non-proliferation regimes for weapons of mass destruction must not be undermined.

I consider that the current level of the bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and the United States of America must not only be maintained, but must also be used for the speedy development of a new framework for strategic relations.

Together with the problem of anti-missile defence, the laying down in legal terms of the agreements reached on further radical, irreversible and verifiable reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in our opinion, down to the level of 1,500 to 2,200 nuclear warheads for each party is becoming particularly important under these circumstances.

In conclusion, I should like to point out the Russian Federation will continue to firmly adhere in world affairs to its principled policy aimed at strengthening strategic stability and international security.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1659
9 January 2002

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 27 NOVEMBER 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE PARAGRAPHS ON DISARMAMENT, ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FROM THE LIMA DECLARATION "UNITED FOR TOMORROW" SIGNED ON 24 NOVEMBER 2001 BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the Political Declaration against Terrorism signed on 24 November 2001 by the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American community at the Eleventh Ibero-American Summit, held in Lima, Peru.

I also enclose the paragraphs on disarmament, arms control and international security from the Lima Declaration "United for Tomorrow", signed on the same occasion by the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American community.

I should be very grateful if you could arrange to have the enclosed documents circulated as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament to the delegations of all member and observer States.

(Signed) Jorge Voto-Bernales
Ambassador

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POLITICAL DECLARATION AGAINST TERRORISM

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American community, reiterate our strongest condemnation of all acts of terrorism, which surfaced once again in an appalling manner in the attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001. Terrorism undermines the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and violates the rights to life and to live in peace, justice, democracy and liberty. It also has grave consequences for economic and social development.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurs and by whomever committed, to afford neither aid nor refuge to the perpetrators, sponsors and participants in terrorist activities, and to strengthen national legislation so as to rule out impunity, designing it instead to stamp out such activities inimical to peace and democracy and ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice or extradited in accordance with each country's legislation and the appropriate international agreements.

3. Bearing in mind the fact that terrorism gravely affects international peace and security, we also reaffirm our intention of strengthening international cooperation in all areas with a view to preventing, suppressing, combating and punishing such actions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the various resolutions passed to that end. In that context, we reiterate our commitment to give effect as quickly as possible to United Nations Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001), 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001) and General Assembly resolutions 49/60, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and 56/1.

4. We likewise express our commitment to sign, ratify or accede, as appropriate, to all United Nations agreements and other regional instruments on the subject of terrorism as an expression of the will of the Ibero-American community to step up the struggle against terrorism by strengthening the role played in this endeavour by the United Nations and other regional bodies.

5. We support the regional cooperation measures which have been adopted pursuant to international law in order to establish effective cooperation for the purposes of exchanging information and detaining, trying, extraditing and punishing the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorist acts and those who support, harbour and finance them. We reiterate our commitment to pass and apply the requisite national measures to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism.

6. We draw attention to the action currently being taken to prevent and suppress networks financing terrorist activities, such as that called for in the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and to secure the broadest possible accession to and strict compliance with all international conventions and protocols on the subject. We shall also strengthen measures to prevent money laundering, given the close links between terrorism and other criminal activities such as those involving illegal drugs.

7. We emphasize the need to conclude, if possible at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, a universal convention designed to ensure the existence of a worldwide legal framework covering all aspects of the campaign against terrorism. We must take advantage of the current collective resolve to make sure that such an international agreement is swiftly concluded.

8. We also reaffirm our belief that the campaign against terrorism should be grounded in the principles of the rule of law and respect for human rights, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9. We undertake to give greater prominence to dialogue among civilizations and respect for cultural, ethnic, religious and racial diversity as a means of contributing to coexistence based on respect and the promotion of a culture of peace. We shall strive to create a fairer, safer, freer international society from which violence, war and intolerance have been forever banished.

Lima, 24 November 2001

Eleventh Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government

Lima Declaration

"United for Tomorrow"
Lima, 23-24 November 2001

We Heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries, meeting in the city of Lima on 23 and 24 November 2001 for our Eleventh Summit, renew, as we subscribe to the present Declaration, our commitment to the values and principles for which we are known, reaffirm our desire to strengthen this forum of political convergence and resolve upon a set of specific mandates.

[...]

20. We reaffirm our commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurs and by whomever committed, to afford neither aid nor refuge to the perpetrators, sponsors and participants in terrorist activities, and to strengthen national legislation so as to rule out impunity, designing it instead to stamp out such activities inimical to peace and democracy and ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice or extradited in accordance with each country's legislation and the appropriate international agreements.

[...]

40. We reiterate our deep concern at the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. In this connection we shall help to give effect to the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in New York in July 2001. Similarly, we highlight the contribution of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.

41. We highlight the efforts our countries have made to build confidence, security, and cooperation among the various authorities concerned, and the initiatives taken by some Latin American countries to standardize and reduce their defence spending. In this connection we stress the importance of the initiative launched by President Alejandro Toledo to promote cuts in Latin American defence spending and channel more resources towards poverty relief.

42. We reiterate our support for general and complete nuclear disarmament under effective international supervision and the elimination of chemical and biological weapons in keeping with the provisions of international law. Similarly, we stress our countries' commitment to the goals of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the adoption of a disarmament programme to do away with such weapons altogether. With this in view we highlight the supreme importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its Additional Protocols, and the need to comply fully with the related obligations.

43. Given the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines on the civilian populace, we stress the importance of the third Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held in Managua, Nicaragua, in September this year. We also reaffirm our hope of finding solutions serving to do away with this problem, ease the plight of mine victims and facilitate their return to normal social and economic life in their countries. With this end in view we appeal to those States with the requisite resources and technology to continue to provide assistance.

[...]

46. We affirm our commitment to improve the international regime governing the peaceful uses of outer space and voice our concern at the scheduled return to the Earth's oceans and landmasses of debris from space.

[...]

Lima, 24 November 2001